

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 INSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 CPR-02 SCA-01

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R 192332Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1292

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR, SGEN, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PROBLEM

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON SUB-SECRETARY GONZALEZ SOSA (ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS) APRIL 19. IN CONVERSATION CONCERNING MFM WASHINGTON AND PRESENT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ATLANTA, GONZALEZ EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SECRETARY RABASA HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AS WELL AS HEMISPHERIC AND OAS MATTERS, NOTING THAT SOME BILATERAL ISSUES EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ISSUE. GONZALEZ RECENTLY ATTENDED IN SAN ANTONIO A MEETING OF MEXICAN CONSULS FROM TEXAS AND OTHER BORDER AREAS. A CAUSE OF MAJOR CONCERN AND SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION AT MEETING WAS THE BRACERO ISSUE. GONZALEZ EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER THE TREATMENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS RECEIVE IN U.S. AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR SPECIFICS, AND GONZALEZ INDICATED THAT BAD TREATMENT WAS PREVALENT "EVERYWHERE AND BY ALL PARTIES INCLUDING AUTHORITIES". HE CHARACTERIZED TREATMENT AS "INFRA-HUMAN". HE SPOKE OF ILLEGALS BEING HELD IN DETENTION CENTERS (WHICH HE CALLED CORRALS) AND DEPLORED FACT THAT DETAINEES ARRIVING AT CENTERS WITH MEAGER EARNINGS ARE CHARGED TWENTY DOLLARS PER DAY FOR FOOD. (SUBSEQUENTLY, INS MEXICO CITY REPORTED THAT ONLY

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CHARGE TO DETAINEES IS FOR PURCHASE OF TICKETS FOR THAT PORTION

OF TRAVEL WITHIN MEXICO -- AND THIS IS CHARGED ONLY IF RETURNEE CAN PAY. DETAINEES MIGHT SPEND THEIR OWN MONEY FOR INCIDENTAL ITEMS SUCH AS CIGARETTES.) GONZALES ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. ARGUMENTS THAT UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS IN U.S. MILITATE AGAINST EMPLOYMENT OF MEXICAN BRACEROS, BUT HE SEEMED TO PUT LITTLE STOCK IN THESE ARGUMENTS. HE SAID BRACEROS WERE AT MERCY OF RANCHERS AND FARMERS WHO EMPLOY THEM.

2. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN WHICH HE AND USG FEEL OVER ANY MISTREATMENT OF BRACEROS, LEGAL OR ILLEGAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT SITUATION IN U.S. AND VIEWS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE ANY NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT DO NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR NEW AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. PROBLEM, HE NOTED, IS OF GREAT SCOPE AND DEPTH. WITH RESPECT TO HYPOTHETICAL NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT, HE WONDERED WHETHER PRESENT U.S. EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGALS WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO FURTHER EMPLOYMENT OF MEXICAN LABORERS IF REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SAME WAGES AND BENEFITS TO SUCH LABORERS AS TO U.S. EMPLOYEES. HE ALSO WONDERED WHETHER A NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR, SAY, 100,000 WORKERS PER YEAR WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE FLOW OF ILLEGALS. WITH RESPECT TO U.S. LEGISLATION EXTANT OR UNDER CONSIDERATION CONCERNING ILLEGAL ALIENS, AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD REGULATES ENTRY OF IMMIGRANTS WHETHER AS WORKERS OR IN SOME OTHER CAPACITY. GONZALEZ SOSA SEEMED TO TAKE THESE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO HEART AND DID NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER.

3. COMMENT: GONZALEZ SOSA'S ALLEGATIONS RE MALTREATMENT OF ILLEGALS IN U.S. WERE AS GENERALIZED AS THOSE THAT OCCASIONALLY APPEAR IN MEXICAN PRESS. LAST SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE REPORTED CHARGES BY MEXICAN CONSUL GENERAL IN EL PASO LAST NOVEMBER. ON THAT OCCASION AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE HANDED NOTE TO SECRETARY RABASA REQUESTING IN ESSENCE THAT GOM VERIFY THAT CG HAD MADE ALLEGATIONS AND, IF SO, SUBSTANTIATE IN ORDER THAT USG MIGHT TAKE APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION. IF CHARGES NOT SUBSTANTIATED, WE ASKED THAT GOM TAKE STEPS TO CORRECT PUBLIC RECORD. GOM HAS NEVER REPLIED TO NOTE. BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IS THAT ABUSES BY U.S. OFFICIALS EXTREMELY RARE.
JOVA

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